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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/491,703	01/26/2000	Alex Dai-Shun Poon	2043.007US1	8953
21186	7590	01/26/2006	EXAMINER	
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH 1600 TCF TOWER 121 SOUTH EIGHT STREET MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			COLBERT, ELLA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3624	

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims withdrawn from consideration are 1-8,17-24,33-40,49-57,60,61,64,65,68-70,72,74 and 76.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-76 are pending. Group II, Claims 9-16, 25-32, 41-48, 58, 59, 62, 63, 66, 67, 71, 73, and 75 have been elected and Claims 1-8, 17-24, 33-40, 49-57, 60, 61, 64, 65, 68-70, 72, 74, and 76 have been cancelled with traverse with applicant reserving the right to petition the Requirement for Restriction and/or file divisional application(s) on the non-elected claims filed 11/07/05 has been entered.
2. The IDS filed 07/08/02 and 06/04/01 have been considered and entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 9-16, 25-32, 41-48, 58, 59, 62, 63, 66, 67, 71, 73, and 75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (US 6,489,968) Ortega et al, hereafter Ortega.

Claims 9, 25, and 41. Ortega teaches, Providing a plurality of category entries to be displayed for said user in a category field within a display window, said plurality of category entries being used to categorize an item in said computerized transaction (col. 4, line 45-col. 5, line 35 and line 66-col. 6, line 4); detecting selection by said user of a category entry of said plurality of category entries (col. 6, lines 21-29 and lines 34-39). Ortega did not expressly disclose, responsive to said detection of said selection of said category entry, providing a plurality of subcategory entries being hierarchically related to

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said selected category entry within a category hierarchy data structure, to be displayed for said user in at least one subcategory entry field within said display window, concurrently with said category field, said plurality of subcategory entries being used to categorize said item in said transaction. However, Ortega did disclose a tree-like structure with subcategories. Fig. 1B in Ortega shows a hierarchical tree. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to be responsive to said detection of said selection of said category entry, providing a plurality of subcategory entries being hierarchically related to said selected category entry within a category hierarchy data structure, to be displayed for said user in at least one subcategory entry field within said display window, concurrently with said category field, said plurality of subcategory entries being used to categorize said item in said transaction in view of Ortega's teachings of categories and subcategories to modify in Ortega because such a modification would allow Ortega to identify items and categories in a hierarchical browse structure.

Claims 10, 26, and 42. Ortega teaches, further comprising providing a category number associated with said selected category entry to be displayed for said user in said display window (col. 15, lines 48-62, Table 8, and Figure 8).

Claims 11, 27, and 43. Ortega teaches, wherein said category field comprises twelve category entries in alphabetical order (col. 7, lines 25-31 and Figure 1A –has more than twelve category entries in a category field-Books/Sports and Outdoors). The fact that there are twelve category entries in alphabetical order is considered a design choice.

Claims 12, 28, and 44. Ortega teaches, further comprising subsequently detecting input of said category number from said user and, responsive to said detection of said input, providing said associated category entry to be displayed for said user in said category field (col. 7, lines 32-58).

Claims 13, 29, and 45. Ortega teaches, wherein said at least one subcategory field further comprises a first subcategory field containing a plurality of first subcategory entries being hierarchically related to said category entry of said plurality of category entries selected by said user; a second subcategory field containing a plurality of second subcategory entries being hierarchically related to a selected first subcategory entry of said plurality of first subcategory entries; and a third subcategory field containing a plurality of third subcategory entries being hierarchically related to a selected second subcategory entry of said plurality of second subcategory entries (col. 5, line 36-col. 6, line 20). Applicants' claim 13 is merely a hierarchical tree structure as shown in Ortega's Figure 1B.

Claims 14, 30, and 46. Ortega teaches, wherein said category field and said at least one subcategory field are contained in graphically distinct areas within said display window (col. 4, lines 53-67, col. 5, lines 37-41, col. 14, lines 33-65, and Figure 6).

Claims 15, 31, and 47. Ortega teaches, wherein said at least one subcategory field is substantially adjacent to said category field (col. 5, line 7-col. 6, line 4 and Figure 1A).

Claims 16, 32, and 48. Ortega teaches, wherein said category field and said at least one subcategory field are page mark-up language documents (col. 9, lines 1-38 and Tables 3 and 4).

Claims 58, 62, and 66, Ortega teaches, further comprising: detecting selection by said user of at least one subcategory entry of said plurality of subcategory entries (col. 4, lines 59-67).

Claims 59, 63, and 67. Ortega teaches, further comprising: responsive to said detection of said selection of said at least one subcategory entry, providing a category number associated with said selected category entry and said at least one selected subcategory entry to be displayed for said user in said display window (col. 5, lines 36-64).

Claims 71, 73, and 75. Ortega teaches, wherein said plurality of category entries are maintained in said category field within said display window and said plurality of subcategory entries are displayed in said at least one subcategory field within said display window, concurrently with said plurality of category entries (col. 5, line 66-col. 6, line 4 and col. 7, lines 6-58).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Friedland et al (US 6,449,601) disclosed an on-line auction, categories, and a list.

Van Horn et al (US 6,934,690) disclosed a product table with fields and a display page.

Ng (US 6,405,175) disclosed a web page for products and prices, categories, and sub-categories.

Inquiries

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ella Colbert whose telephone number is 571-272-6741. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Thursday, 6:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on 571-272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



E. Colbert
Primary Examiner
January 20, 2006